Act 18
Temporary Closing

SFX: WHEEZING

どん
DAD!!
MASTER! YOU'RE HAVING A ZO-NAPHA ATTACK ...

I'M PAST MY PRIME...
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WE COULD HAVE BEATEN THEM ON OUR OWN!
DAD, YOU IDIOT! YOU DID THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE IN SO MUCH PAIN...

2

THAT'S RIGHT ...
.....

flinch

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO... I... I COULD HAVE...
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU DID THAT TO WAKE MING-HAI, UP, BUT ...

WHEN I RAISED MY HAND, IT WAS USUALLY TO SCOLD YOU WITH A BLOW ...
NO... NO, THAT'S NOT...

D-DAD ...

FORGIVE ME, MING-XIA.
I GUARD OUR STYLE OF KENPO, ALONG WITH CENTURIES OF CHINESE HISTORY... I COULD NOT HELP BEING THAT KIND OF FATHER.

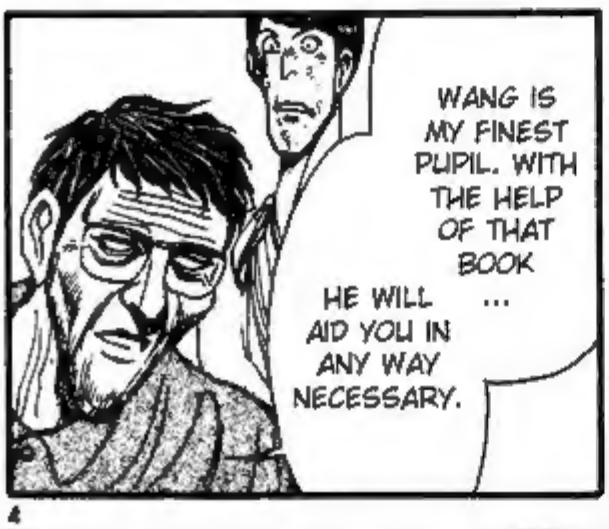
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDENESS IN REMAINING SEATED.
I THANK YOU... I AM CALLED LIANG JIANG-FENG.

I MUST COMMEND YOUR PROFOUND MASTERY OF YOUR ART.

YEAH!
MASTER, YOU BEAT THOSE DOLL MONSTERS SO EASILY!
YES, IT WAS AMA-ZING!

DON'T YOU THINK SO, LUCILLE? IF MASTER JOINED FORCES WITH THE SHIROGANE ...
THAT REALLY WAS AWESOME! IF MASTER WAS WITH US, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE AUTOMATA AT ALL!

MY NAME IS LUCILLE VERNEUIL. SOME-DAY... WE MUST GET TOGETHER FOR TEA.
THAT WOULD BE NICE ...


WANG IS MY FINEST PUPIL. WITH THE HELP OF THAT BOOK ... HE WILL AID YOU IN ANY WAY NECESSARY.

H-HEY, LUCILLE!
WELL THEN ...

MAS-TER ...

HE IS NOT WILLING TO LIVE A FALSE LIFE.
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?! IF WE CAN GET MASTER TO COME WITH US...
IT'S NO USE.
HUH ?

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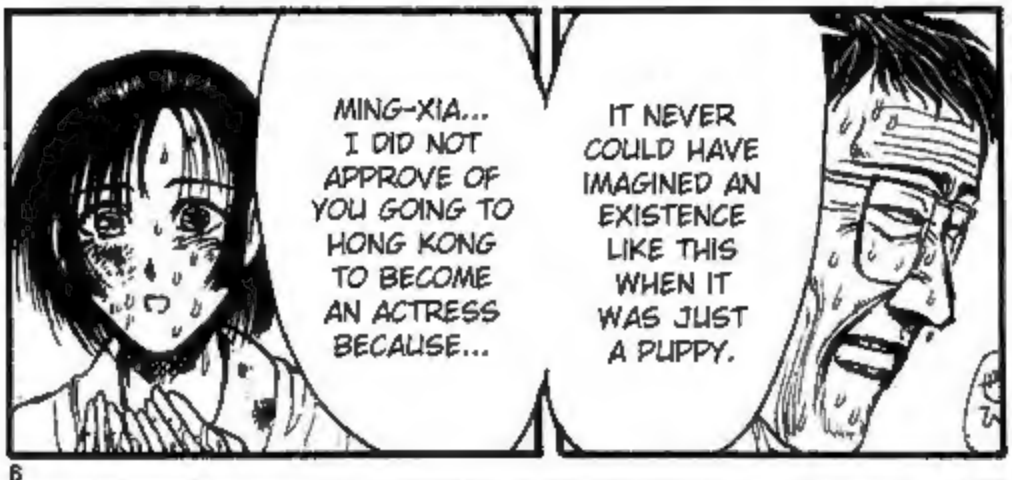
MASTER, IF YOU DRINK THIS WATER, YOUR ZONAPHA SYNDROME WILL BE HEALED!!
DAD, DRINK THIS WATER!

THAT...
DOG...

SLURP

WHAT ?!
THIS DOG... DRANK THAT WATER LONG, LONG AGO.


MING-XIA... I DID NOT APPROVE OF YOU GOING TO HONG KONG TO BECOME AN ACTRESS BECAUSE...
IT NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED AN EXISTENCE LIKE THIS WHEN IT WAS JUST A PUPPY.

SINCE THEN, IT HAS PROTECTED THIS SPRING FROM HUMANS SEEKING TO APPROACH IT...
PROB-ABLY IT HAS BEEN WOUNDED LIKE THIS MANY TIMES.

TO ME, THE ACT OF IMITATING AND PRETENDING TO BE SOMETHING WAS A REPELLENT THING.

FOR YOU TO HAVE LEARNED REAL MARTIAL ARTS, AND EARN YOUR LIVING IMITATING THEM, ALWAYS DRIFTING TO SOME NEW PLACE...
.....
AND ACTING, ON TOP OF THAT, IS A JOB IN WHICH ONE ACTS OUT A SUCCESSION OF DIFFERENT LIVES.
WHILE THEY ARE THERE, THEY SEIZE HOLD OF AS MANY MATERIAL THINGS AS THEY CAN, AND THEN PREPARE TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PLACE...
PEOPLE GO TO LARGE CITIES LIKE HONG KONG TO SEEK AN EASY WAY OF LIFE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, A GENUINE LIFE IS A SHORT ONE.
I... I...
I COULD NEVER APPROVE OF YOUR WAY OF LIFE.
TRAVELING TO TEMPORARY PLACES ... AND LIVING A TEMPORARY LIFE...

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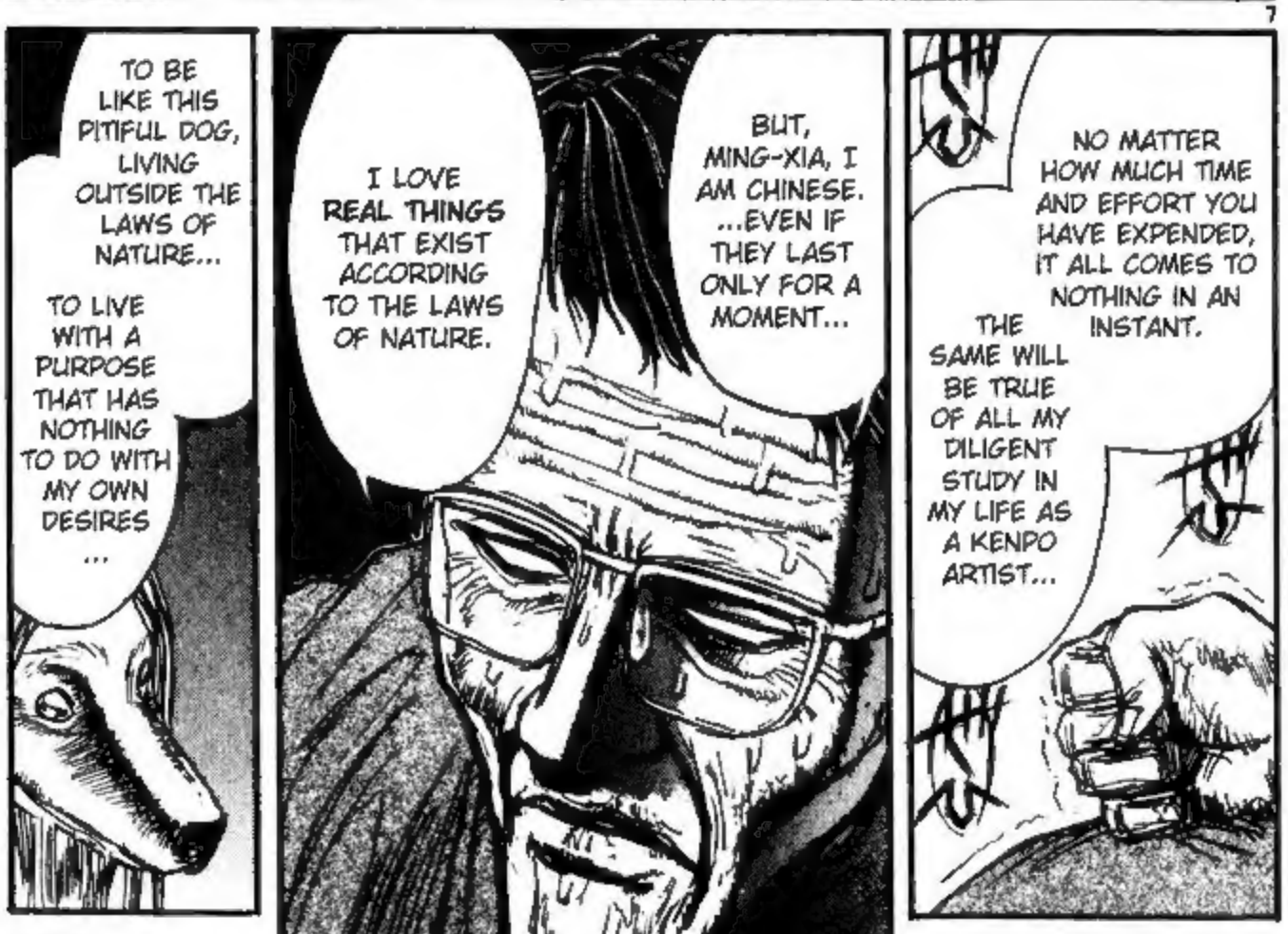
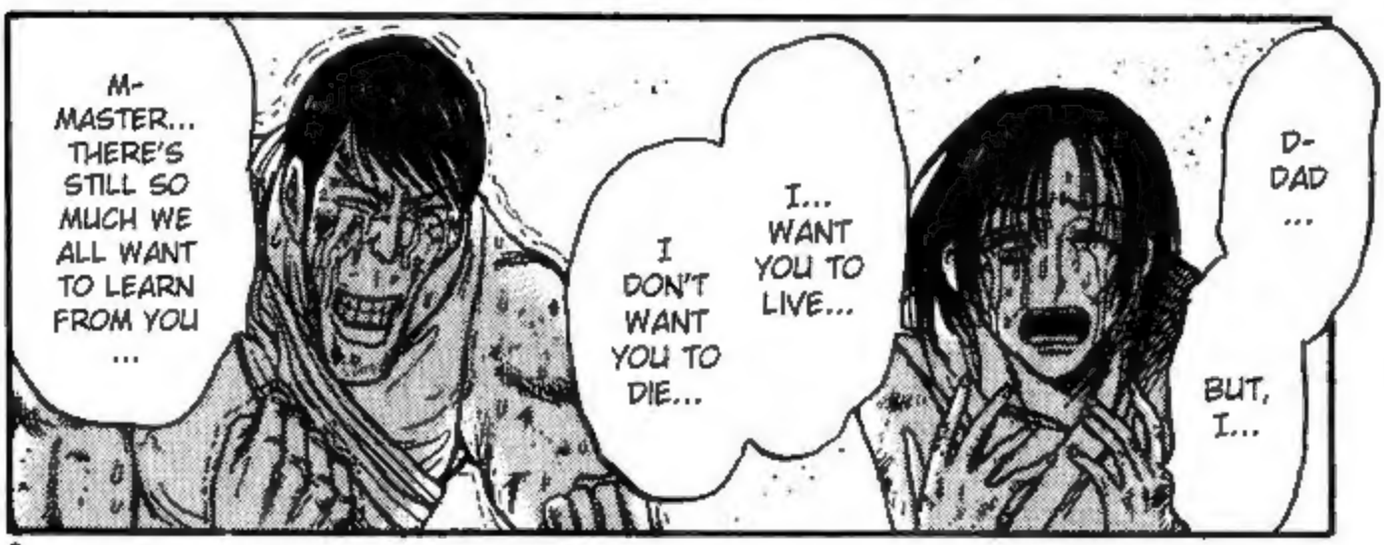

TO BE LIKE THIS PITIFUL DOG, LIVING OUTSIDE THE LAWS OF NATURE...
TO LIVE WITH A PURPOSE THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY OWN DESIRES ...
I LOVE REAL THINGS THAT EXIST ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF NATURE.
BUT, MING-XIA, I AM CHINESE. ...EVEN IF THEY LAST ONLY FOR A MOMENT...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME AND EFFORT YOU HAVE EXPENDED, IT ALL COMES TO NOTHING IN AN INSTANT.
THE SAME WILL BE TRUE OF ALL MY DILIGENT STUDY IN MY LIFE AS A KENPO ARTIST...

I DO NOT WANT A FALSE ETERNAL LIFE SUCH AS THAT.


M-MASTER... THERE'S STILL SO MUCH WE ALL WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU ...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE...
I... WANT YOU TO LIVE...
D-DAD ...
BUT, I...

DAD... WE SHOULD HAVE TALKED WITH EACH OTHER MORE ...!
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NOT EVEN HIS OWN DAUGHTER ...

NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THE LIFE THAT PERSON HAS CHOSEN...
BUT... A PERSON'S LIFE BELONGS TO THEM ALONE.

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M-
MAS-
TER?
DAD,
WHAT
...?!

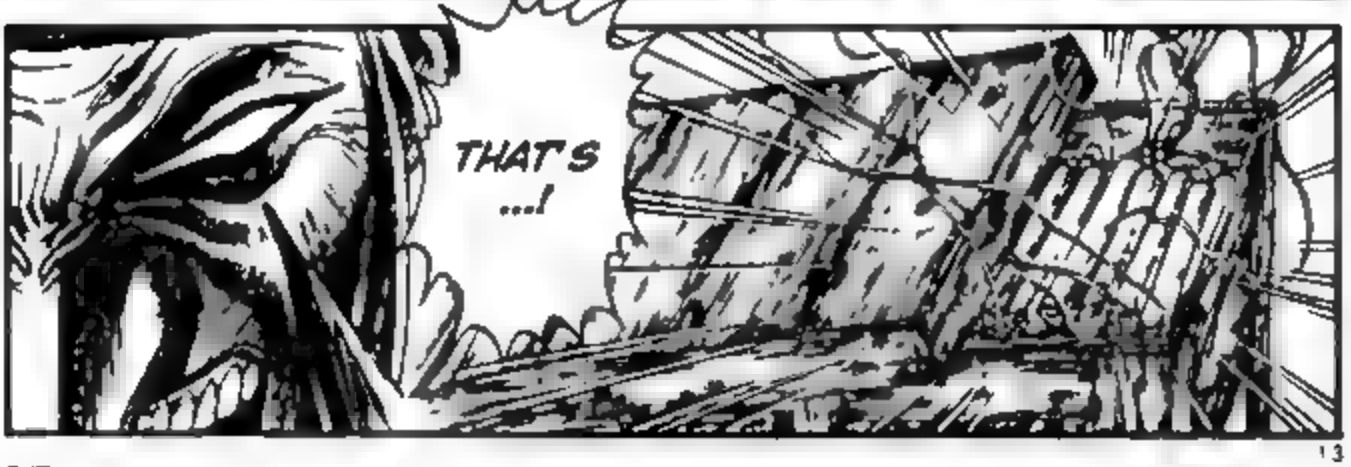
THAT'S ...
THAT ...
WAAAHH !!
10
PANTA-LONE!

THE DAUGHTER INSULTS THE CLOTHING I WAS GIVEN BY LADY FRANCINE...
AND THE FATHER HEAPS CONTEMPT UPON MY BODY, WHICH SHE PERFECTED WITH HER OWN HANDS!
IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNPARDON-ABLE!
UNFOR-GIVABLE!

MISS MING-XIA!!
EEK!
HE MADE A BALL OUT OF THE ROCK?!
IT'S HIS SIGNATURE MOVE. EVEN OUR MARIO-NETTES CAN'T STAND UP TO IT!

I'LL START WITH YOU, LITTLE GIRL! I'LL FLATTEN YOU TO THE GROUND!
UGH ...!
THEN I'LL CRUSH YOUR FATHER AND DRINK THE AQUA VITAE ON TOP OF HIS CORPSE...!
WAIT JUST A MOMENT, YOU RIDICULOUS WOODEN TOY.
WHAT WAS THAAAT ?!

DIDN'T I SAY YOU WERE NOT TO DRINK FROM THIS SPRING?
DYNAMITE.
IT SEEMS YOU DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE TELL YOU, DOLL.


THAT'S ...!

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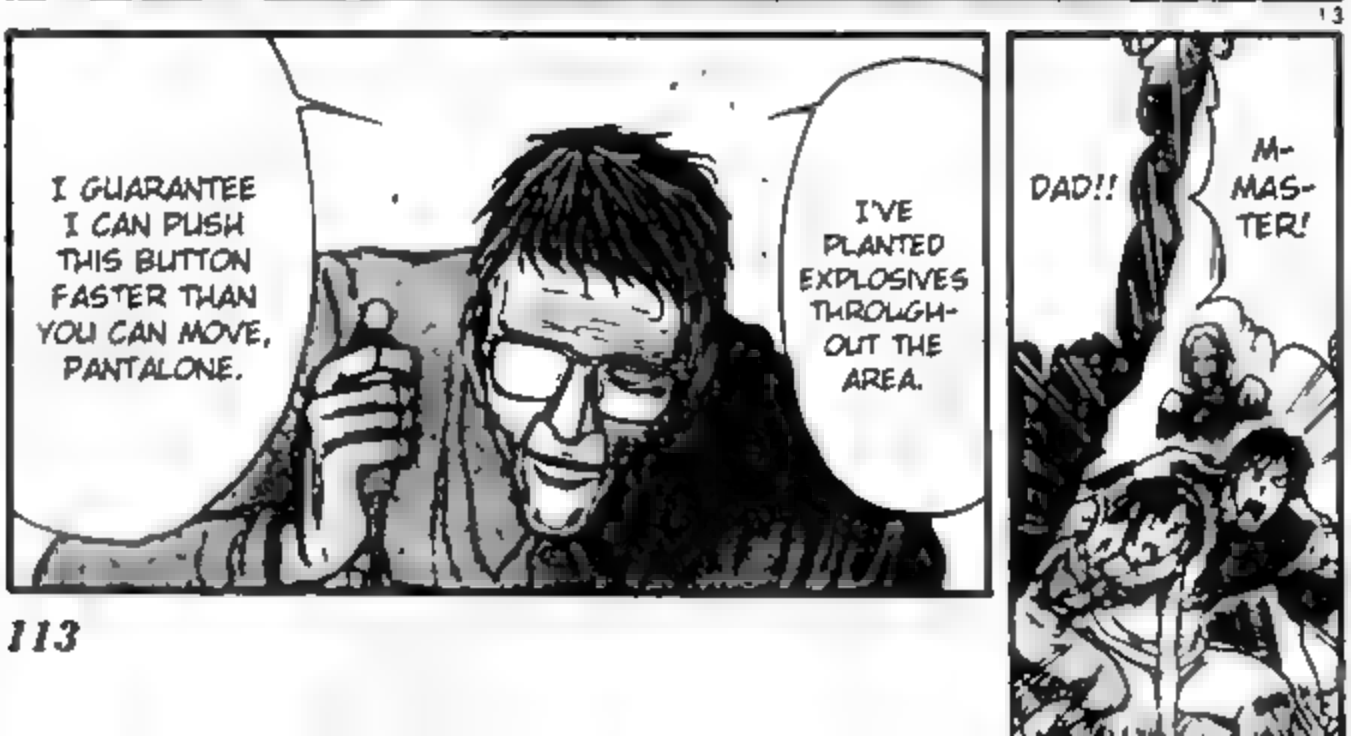
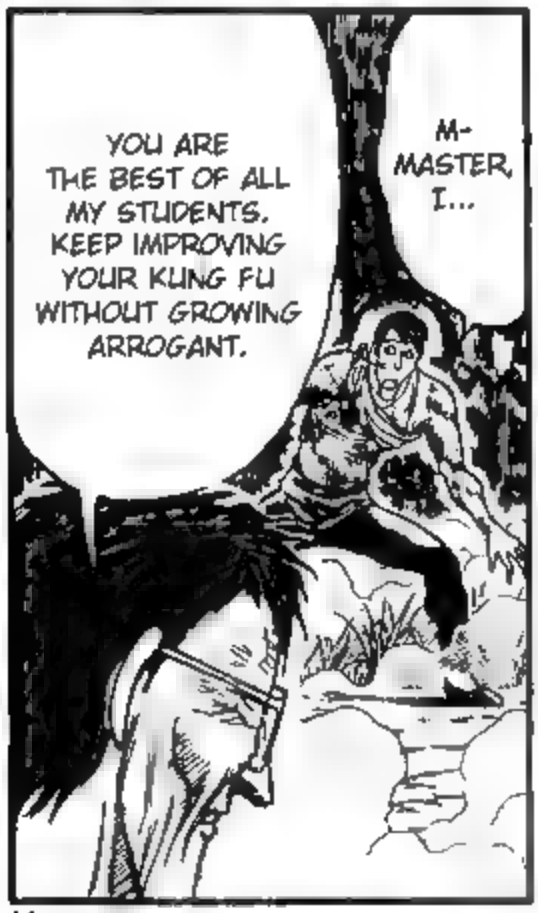

I GUARANTEE I CAN PUSH THIS BUTTON FASTER THAN YOU CAN MOVE, PANTALONE.
I'VE PLANTED EXPLOSIVES THROUGH-OUT THE AREA.
DAD!!
M-MAS-TER!

WELL, I AM FOND OF FIRE-WORKS...

DAMN YOU ...!
IF YOU DO THAT THE SPRING WILL BE—


M-MASTER, I...
YOU ARE THE BEST OF ALL MY STUDENTS. KEEP IMPROVING YOUR KUNG FU WITHOUT GROWING ARROGANT.

WANG, I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.

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DON'T DO IT, DAD! DAD!!
MASTER, COME OVER HERE! DON'T DO ANYTHING HASTY!

MAS-TER ...!

I HAVE CHOSEN THE WAY I WILL DIE.
EVERY-ONE'S BEING SO NOISY ...
GRRAHH!
NO! LET ME GO, WANG!
MISS MING-XIA, YOU CAN'T!
NOOO! DAAAD!
FORGIVE ME, MING-XIA ...
IN THE END... I NEVER DID PAT YOUR HEAD...

I LIVED A GENUINE LIFE...
I HAVE NO REGRETS.

DAMN
IIIIT!

A NEW BEGINNING IN MY PURSUIT OF THE AUTOMATA.

からくりサーカス
Le Cirque de Karakuri

AND THAT END ALSO MARKED ...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

This worked out perfectly as a place to stop for the holidays! I'll be traveling, so the next chapter will be on **January 11th**. There'll be a few intermission chapters, and then the start of a new arc!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.